

GLOBAL NETWORKING

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*LANGUAGE LESSONS*

*PACKET*



*RUSSIA*

*DO NOT WRITE IN THIS PACKET!*

*RETURN TO YOUR TEACHER WHEN  
FINISHED WITH LESSONS!*



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A Little Bit of Language Can Go a Long Way!

## Lesson 1: Survival Phrases #1 - Thank You!

Спасибо.

### LESSON NOTES

Wherever your destination maybe, manners are a must! And in this respect, Russia is no different. So in our very first lesson, we'll be taking a look at a phrase there is no excuse not to bring with you to Russia. Again, I'll stress this over and over, a little bit of the language can go such a long way! In Russian "Thank you" is spasiba. You can emphasize spasiba by adding balshoye which means "big". Balshoye spasiba literally means "Big thank you" and is the equivalent of "Thank you very much" in English. Now in Russian there are other ways to express one's gratitude. There are more formal and more casual ways to do this. For very special occasions when someone goes above and beyond the call of being kind, when someone is extremely generous, or for any other time you're extremely grateful, we have the following phrase to express extreme gratitude: Blagadaryu vas. The first word blagadaryu means "(I am) thankful." To reproduce the Russian consonant "r" in blagadaryu you should roll your "r"s. The Russian "r" resembles the Italian or Spanish ones, but even if you don't roll it properly you will be easily understood anyway. It is followed by the polite "you" which in Russian is vy but in this sentence we use vas. So in English it would be something like "I am grateful (thankful) to you".

### PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Благодарю Вас.	Blagadaryu Vas.	Thank you. (formal)
Спасибо.	Spasiba.	Thank you. (informal)

### QUICK TIP

Please do know that in Russian there are two ways of referring to people: formal and informal. So let's start first with the polite form. The polite equivalent of the English "you" is vy in Russian. This polite word contains a sound that doesnot exist in English and is transcribed by the letter "y" but please don't worry; I will teach you how to produce this sound. Open your mouth as if you were preparing to pronounce the sound "â" in the word "able" and holding the same open position of your mouth try to reproduce the sound "ee" like in the word "if". Doing it this way you will achieve the desired sound "y" which is present in vy. Please note the same letter "y" will be also used to show the short "ee" sound and after some consonants in order to soften them. We use vy when we want to show respect to the other person or when the context requires formality. For instance, when meeting someone for the first time, at a shop, at work, with a professor, or with an older person. However, vy is not always required when you meet someone for the first time if the setting is casual, say at a party with people of your own age. Younger people, especially, are using vy less and less. They often speak directly in ty with each other and even their grandparents. So ty is the informal equivalent of "you". The sound "y" here is the same as



vy. We use ty in contexts where we know the person personally and the environment is casual. People of one's own age, classmates, family, and friends are such people. At home, at school, friendly social settings are such contexts. Ty is the most common form of "you" that you will hear, so don't feel nervous about using it. Not many Russians know that the origin of the word spasiba came from two words, spasi which means "save" and Bog which means "God". So the meaning of it is "May God keep you safe!" which was an old way of expressing gratitude. So surprise your Russian friends by asking them the origin of the word spasiba!





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## Lesson 2: Survival Phrases #2 - You're Welcome!

Пожалуйста

### LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we continue on with basic etiquette. The Russians are exceptionally hospitable, and phrases of gratitude and those related are used at an extremely high frequency. During your travels in Russia, while you may not get the chance to use Russian phrase for "You're welcome," there is a very good chance you'll hear it. In Russian "You're welcome." is pazhalusta. Pazhalusta literally means "please". Another way of responding to a phrase of gratitude is Ne za shto, which means "It's nothing". The first word ne means "not". It is followed by za which is "for". The third word, shto means "what". It corresponds to the English "it's nothing".

### PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Не за что	Ne za shto.	You're welcome (informal).
Пожалуйста	Pazhalusta.	You're welcome.

### QUICK TIP

So next time when you hear the word spasiba which is "thank you" in English and you want to say "You're welcome" you can use both expressions of this lesson!



## Lesson 3: Survival Phrases #3 - Please (This Please)

Пожалуйста

### LESSON NOTES

Today's phrase will help you take matters into your own hands! In today's lesson we'll take a look at "please", as in asking for something. In Russian "please" is pazhalusta. The most rudimentary way of using "please" is pointing at something while saying pazhalusta, but let's try and build this up a bit, shall we? Let's start with the expression, "This please." which in Russian is Eta pazhalusta. In English, "this" comes before "please". In Russian the word order is the same. In Russian the word for "this", eta, precedes pazhalusta. Let's take a look at the word for "this". "This" in Russian is eta.

### PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Дайте мне..., пожалуйста	Daite mne...; pozhalusta	Give me..., please.
то	to	that
это	eta	this
Пожалуйста	Pazhalusta	please





## Lesson 4: Survival Phrases #4 - Basic Greetings

Доброе утро

### LESSON NOTES

In Russian the phrase *zdrastvuyte* can be used as a universal greeting. The morning greeting is *Dobraye utra*. The first word *dobraye* literally means "kind". It is followed by *utra*, which in English is "morning". So *Dobraye utra* literally means "kind morning" but we can take it to mean "good morning". In Russian "good afternoon" is *Dobryy dyen*. And finally we have the evening greeting which in Russian is *Dobryy vechir*. The first word *dobryy* means "kind". It is followed by *vechir* which in English is "evening". so together we have *dobryy vechir* which literally means "kind evening" but we can understand its meaning as "good evening".

### PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Привет	Privet.	Hello, hi. (informal)
Доброе утро	Dobraye utra.	Good morning.
Добрый день	Dobryy dyen.	Good afternoon.
Добрый вечер	Dobryy vechir.	Good evening.

### QUICK TIP

There is also an informal way of greeting which is used among friends. Once you get to know someone fairly well you can greet them with *Privet!* which is "Hello!" in English. You can also add *Kak dila?* which is the English equivalent of "How do you do?" or "How are you doing?" So if you say *Privet, kak dila?* it would correspond to the English "Hello, how are you doing?" And if somebody asks you *Privet, kak dila?* you can reply with *Spasiba harasho!* which literally means "Thank you well!" or "Thank you, I am doing well". The word *Zdrastvuyte* from today's lesson can be used anytime of the day. It can be used as formal greeting and also to greet several people at the same time.



## Lesson 5: Survival Phrases #5 - Parting Greetings

До свидания

### LESSON NOTES

Today we'll introduce parting greetings. A parting expression that can be used for all occasions is Da svidaniya which literally means "Until next date/meeting". Let's take a look at the components. The first word da means "until". It is followed by svidaniya, which in Russian is "date" or "meeting". In Russian a more casual way of saying goodbye is Paka. This phrase is used among friends, or in other casual situations.

### PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Пока	Paka	Goodbye (informal)
До свидания	Da svidaniya	Goodbye



## Lesson 8: Survival Phrases #8 - I Don't Understand

Я не понимаю.

### LESSON NOTES

"I don't understand" is going to be a very useful phrase because most of the time, maybe even almost 100% of the time, you won't understand. Russian sounds very different from English and in the beginning there will likely be an adjustment period during which your ears get used to Russian. In Russian "I don't understand" is "Ya ni panimayu". The first word "ya" means "I". It is followed by "ni", which in English is "not". Followed by "panimayu" which means "understand". So to recap here, we have "ya ni panimayu". Literally this means "I don't understand".

### PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Я не понимаю.	Ya ni panimayu.	I don't understand.

### QUICK TIP

So now if you want to say that "unfortunately" you do not understand to you highlight this "unfortunately" you can use the following phrase: "K sazhaleniyu ya ni panimayu" which means "Unfortunately I don't understand". In a situation where you are caught by surprise and someone is talking to you in Russian not knowing that you do not understand a word of Russian you can just shrug your shoulders. This is a widely used sign in Russia to show that you do not understand or that you just don't know.





## Lesson 7: Survival Phrases #7 - Do You Speak English?

Вы говорите по-английски?

### LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we'll cover another extremely important phrase, "Can you speak English?" Using this phrase as opposed to speaking English at someone is important for many reasons. For one if the party you're speaking to doesn't understand English, at least they'll be able to understand what you're asking. Furthermore, it shows a lot of respect, to show that you took the effort to learn even a little bit of the language, and for these reasons and many more, we're going to cover this phrase. In Russian "Do you speak English?" is "Vy gavarite pa angliyski?". The first word "Vy" means "you". This is followed by "gavarite", which in English is "speak", "talk". "Pa" means "on". "Pa-angliyski" is a set phrase which means "English" related to language. Now let's try a different language. How about "French?". Can you speak French? "Vy gavarite pa frantsuski?". The word for "French" is "frantsuskiy". Here the word that changes is the word for the language. The rest is the same.

### PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Вы говорите по-английски?	Vy gavarite pa angliyski?	Do you speak English?
Вы говорите по-французски?	Vy gavarite pa frantsuski?	Do you speak French?

### QUICK TIP

Nowadays in Russia English is studied at schools, so the number of speakers is increasing; however, there are still many people who don't speak English. As a foreigner you might be asked whether you speak Russian with "Vy gavarite pa-ruski?" - "Do you speak Russian?" You can give a short answer "nyet" which means "no", "da" which is "yes" or you might want to say "Ochen ploho" which means "very bad". Even though you do not speak any Russian, you certainly heard of some famous writers like Tolstoy, Dostoyevskiy, Chekhov etc. Russians are very proud of their literature. That's why you should let them know that you know some of their writers. They would be very pleased to talk about it and share some of their knowledge!





## Lesson 11: Survival Phrases #11 - Business Greetings

Добро пожаловать

### LESSON NOTES

So, you are in Russia. As a tourist, you will be compelled to visit a lot of shops, restaurants, and maybe even private homes to get a feel of Russian culture and to taste the food. Today, we're going to learn phrases you'll hear when entering a business establishment or visiting a person you are in a rather formal relationship with.

The polite greeting you'll hear when entering a place of business or somebody's home for the first time is "Dabro pazhalavat" and it means "welcome." There's no sense in remembering these two words separately, as they make a stable phrase that can't possibly have any variations.

You'll hear this a dozen times as you walk into different stores and restaurants. You'll get tired of hearing it, but it would be nice if you could acknowledge the person welcoming you with a smile. And if you want to say something, just say "thank you," which is "spasiba". "Thank you." Saying "hello" is also acceptable in response to "welcome," especially when you wish to start a conversation with the staff right away. "Hello" in Russian will be "zdrastvuite". So to recap here, we can make a short dialogue: "Dabro pazhalavat" - "Spasiba", or "Dabro pazhalavat" - "zdrastvuite", and then you ask the staff whatever you need according to the situation. Responding to the greeting on a private visit would also be "spasiba", ("thank you").

When leaving a place of business or somebody's home, you will hear the polite parting words "prihadite escho", which mean "come again." The first word "prihadite" means "come" and we use it in a polite form; therefore, we don't have to add words like "please" here. The next word is "escho", which literally means "more," but in our case we translate it as "again." So to recap here, we have "prihadite escho", ("come again"). To respond to this, all you have to say is "thank you" again, which is "spasiba". Remember these phrases, as you might also want to use them when inviting some people over to your place to show your hospitality as well as your knowledge of Russian and its cultural nuances.

### PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
здравствуй	zdrastvuite	Hello!
Спасибо	spasiba	Thank you!
Добро пожаловать	Dabro pazhalavat'	Welcome!
приходите ещё	prihadite escho	Come again!





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## Lesson 10: Survival Phrases #10 - Apologies (I'm Sorry)

ИЗВИНИТЕ.

### LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we'll cover phrases used for apologizing. Now, as you haven't quite mastered Russian it's probably very prudent to go over the phrases for apologizing as they just might come in handy. We'll start with "Izvinite" which is "I'm sorry" or "Excuse me" in English. This phrase is used to ask for someone's attention, like for example when you want to ask the name of the street, you can put "Izvinite" at the beginning of the phrase. You can also use "Izvinite" as an apologizing for bumping into people. Now, what if someone says this to you? It depends on the context. If someone for example stepped on your foot and said "Izvinite" You may answer "Nichivo strashnava" which means "It's nothing". When sympathizing with someone the phrase "Mnye ochen zhal" - "I am very sorry" can be used. You can also use this phrase when you are not able to fulfill someone's request but rather on formal occasions.

### PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Ничего страшного.	Nichivo strashnava.	It's nothing. (Formal)
извините.	Izvinite.	Excuse me. - Sorry.



## Lesson 52: Survival Phrases #52 - Introducing Yourself

Как поживаете? Приятно с Вами познакомиться.

### LESSON NOTES

There's no impression like the first. In today's lesson we'll work on leaving the first impression that will last. In Russian, "how do you do, nice to meet you" is "kak pazhivaete, priyatna s Vami paznakomitsa". The first word "kak" means "how". This is followed by "pazhivaete", which in English is "live". So, to recap here we have: "kak pazhivaete". Literally this means "how live". Let's take a look at the next "priyatna", which means "nice". Then comes "s Vami", which means "with you". The last part is "paznakomitsa", which means "meet". So altogether we have: "kak pazhivaete, priyatna s Vami paznakomitsa". Literally this means "how you live, nice to meet you".

Now, for the next phrase we'll need a name, so I will use mine. In Russian "I am Alex" is "menya zavut Aleks". The first word "menya" means "I", or "me". This is followed by "zavut", which in English is "called". So, to recap here we have "menya zavut". Literally this means "I'm called". Let's take a look at the next "Aleks", which means "Alex". So altogether we have "menya zavut Aleks". Literally this means "I'm called Alex".

And finally, "nice to meet you" in Russian is "priyatna s Vami paznakomitsa". The first word "priyatna" means "nice". This is followed by "s Vami", which in English is "with you". And the last word is "paznakomitsa", which in English is "to meet". So altogether we have "priyatna s Vami paznakomitsa". Literally this means "nice with you to meet".

### PHRASES

Russian	Romanization	English
Как поживаете? Приятно с Вами познакомиться.	Kak pazhivaete? priyatna s Vami paznakomitsa.	How do you do, nice to meet you.
Меня зовут Алекс.	Menya zavut Aleks.	I am Alex.
Приятно с Вами познакомиться.	Priyatna s Vami paznakomitsa.	Nice to meet you.

### QUICK TIP

The ways people introduce themselves differ according to age and place. Young people are likely to say their first names only, exactly as the way we learned today. People over 30 tend to say both last and first names, or: "menya zavut Ivanov Sergei", which in English is "I am Ivanov Sergei". Others introduce their middle name and expect you to call them by using their first and middle names. When you hear someone introduce himself as "I am Ivanov Sergei Vladimirovich",



then you should call the person "Sergei Vladimirovich". Usually people specify the way they want to be called, because sometimes to call a person by his last name is considered to be rude and creates distance between people. If you are lost, then just ask "kak Vas mozhna zvat'", which means "how can I call you". Do not hesitate to confirm, it would be one step closer to friendship. Between men, introductions are accompanied by a handshake. It's also OK to take a hand of a woman and shake it very gently, sometimes even unnoticeably. But do not hold it for a long time as it can express an inappropriate interest. Kisses on cheeks are not good either. Such behavior is considered as a trespass of an intimate space and can incur a negative reaction.



